

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 07464 151148Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-07 HEW-04
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 W
-----151200Z 075874 /46

R 151022Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8980
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//DMA//
DA WASHDC//DAJA-IA//

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7464

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, KE, US
SUBJECT: STATUS OF U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT

REF: STATE 126080 (DTG 011956Z JUN 77)

1. U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT IN KENYA WAS ESTABLISHED
IN MARCH 1973 UNDER TERMS OF RESEARCH GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND KENYA MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE. GRANT AGREEMENT WAS FOR PERIOD OF ONE YEAR,
SUBJECT TO ANNUAL RENEWAL, AND IT HAS BEEN REGULARLY RENEWED
WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION. GRANT DOCUMENT COVERS
SCOPE OF RESEARCH, SHARING OF COSTS ETC., BUT DOES NOT
SPELL OUT FORMAL BASIS FOR STATUS OF PERSONNEL AS IS
APPARENTLY THE CASE IN THAILAND.

2. EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED THE PRACTICE OF ANNOUNCING PERSONNEL
OF USAMRU TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AS ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL
STAFF OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION COVERED BY VIENNA
CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. GOK HAS ROUTINELY
ACCEPTED THIS NOTIFICATION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 07464 151148Z

3. USARMU IS IN POSSESSION OF INTERNAL GOK CORRESPON-
DENCE DATED JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 1973 INDICATING THAT
MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND FINANCE ALL
CONCURRED IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE DECISION TO ESTAB-
LISH USAMRU ON "PERMANENT BASIS, DEFINED AS RESEARCHERS
LIVING AND WORKING IN KENYA ON A YEARLY RENEWABLE GRANT

FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

4. EMBASSY PERCIEVES NO BENEFIT TO USAMRU OR TO U.S. GOVERNMENT IN FORMALIZING AN ARRANGEMENT THAT HAS WORKED WELL AND WHICH ENJOYS THE AUTHORITY OF ACCEPTANCE OVER MORE THAN FOUR YEARS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE USAMRU'S STATUS WOULD BE ANY MORE SECURE UNDER FORMAL AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT OF POLITICAL CHANGES; ITS EVERDAY WORK REQUIRES ACTIVE COOPERATION OF VETERINARY RESEARCH LABORATORY OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND OF THIS COOPERATION WERE WITHDRAWN THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT IN ATTEMPTING TO CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITY. WE FEEL PERSONNEL ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED BY VIENNA CONVENTION STATUS, WHICH IS SAME STATUS ENJOYED BY LARGE NUMBER OF NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OF THE EMBASSY.

5. ON NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE COIN, EMBASSY WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SEEK FORMAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WITH GOK FOR STATIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL IN KENYA, SINCE EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD EXPOSE KENYA TO POTENTIAL ACCUSATIONS BY MORE RADICAL AFRICAN STATES OF HAVING COMPROMISED HER NON-ALIGNMENT. MOREOVER, WE ARE TOLD BY USAMRU THAT VETERINARY LABORATORIES MIGHT REGARD REQUEST FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT AS IMPLICIT SLAP AT ITS RECORD OF PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR USAMRU, OR AT MINIMUM WOULD BE IRRITATED BY NEED FOR MAJOR BUREAUCRATIC EFFORTS TO CLEAR THE WHOLE OPERATION THROUGH THE KENYA GOVERNMENT AGAIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NAIROB 07464 151148Z

6. FINALLY, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT WE REGARD USAMRU PRESENCE AS USEFUL PRECEDENT FOR STATUS THAT WILL BE ACCORDED TO 14-MAN USAF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAM (TAFT) THAT BEGINS OPERATIONS IN KENYA ON JUNE 15. WHILE WE HAVE DETAILED WRITTEN UNDERSTANDING WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ABOUT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING TAFT, FORMAL CONVENTION THROUGH SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF ANNOUNCING NEW ARRIVALS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AS ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO TAMPER WITH STATUS OF USAMRU JUST AS TAFT IS BEING LAUNCHED.

7. FOR FOREGOING REASONS, WE BELIEVE IT IS NEITHER TIMELY NOR NECESSARY TO APPROACH GOK TO FORMALIZE STATUS OF UNAMRU KENYA.
LINDSTROM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MEDICAL RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NAIROB07464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770213-0700
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770654/aaaabvno.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 231b777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 126080
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2143512
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT
TAGS: MARR, KE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/231b777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009